



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE agents arrest 11 aliens illegally working at 3 local scrap metal businesses

WICHITA, Kan. — Special agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office here on Tuesday arrested 11 illegal aliens at three local scrap metal businesses. The arrests took place as part of a coordinated operation with the Wichita Police Department which was investigating unscrupulous business practices at the three locations.

Wichita PD requested ICE assistance since they also suspected that a number of the employees at all three locations were illegally living and working in the United States.

Of the 11 illegal aliens arrested, 10 were from Mexico. One was a 55-year-old Cuban who was already in removal proceedings. The other aliens ranged in age from 18 to 47. All have been placed into deportation proceedings.

Four of the aliens, including the Cuban, have criminal records and are in ICE custody. The other seven aliens were given notices to appear before federal immigration judges and were released on their own recognizance under an “order of supervision,” which requires that the aliens periodically report in to the local ICE office.

According to its news release, Wichita PD targeted these locations following an undercover investigation on suspicion that these businesses were cheating customers on the weight of recycled scrap metal being sold to the businesses. The businesses include: two locations of Kansas Can Inc. at 1251 S. Seneca and 522 E. 21st St. North; and American Can Inc. at 1410 E. 21st St. North.

Wichita PD served search and arrest warrants simultaneously at the three businesses at 10 a.m.

“Our ICE special agents routinely work with Wichita PD, and many other law enforcement agencies,” said Victor Montemayor, resident agent-in-charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Wichita. “ICE’s unique immigration and customs law enforcement authorities can play a key role in many types of investigations.”

These arrests represent how ICE is significantly enhancing its worksite enforcement efforts as part of its interior enforcement strategy. They are part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. As part of SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

Other recent ICE Worksite Enforcement Operations include:

- **Five arrested at Wichita Cessna plant** — Five people were arrested May 30, 2006 after it was determined that they were illegally working in the U.S. with fraudulent documents. Cessna fully cooperated with the investigation. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Wichita is criminally prosecuting the five for possessing fraudulent document.
- **Boston Cleaning Business** -- On May 12, 2006, Jose Neto, a businessman in Allston, Mass, was convicted of knowingly harboring illegal aliens who worked in his cleaning business. He had previously pleaded guilty to charges of attempting to bribe an ICE agent, inducing illegal aliens to reside in the country, and having a pattern or practice of knowingly employing illegal aliens. Neto, an illegal alien himself from Brazil, faces up to 15 years imprisonment, followed by 5 years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine.
- **Dragon Buffet Restaurants – (New York)** -- On May 11, 2006, Hui Guo, a lawful permanent resident alien and citizen of China, pleaded guilty in Albany, New York, to one count of hiring and harboring illegal aliens in connection with two Dragon Buffet chain restaurants he operated in the Albany area. He was first arrested in November 2005. The investigation into Guo was part of a larger ICE probe into Kun Cheng, who owned six Chinese buffet restaurants in the Albany area. Cheng was arrested in November 2004 for his part in the organization. To date, this investigation has resulted in the criminal arrest of 9 individuals, the administrative arrest of 84 illegal aliens and the seizure of approximately \$1.4 million and 11 vehicles.
- **Golden China Buffet** – On May 10, 2006, Jian, Lin, a Chinese restaurant owner and eight illegal alien workers that he was housing and transporting to and from work were arrested in Louisville, Ky. Jian Lin, the 32-year-old restaurant owner, and five illegal Chinese workers were arrested at the restaurant on immigration violations. Three other illegal workers — one Chinese and two Mexican — were arrested at the Wilma Avenue residence that is owned by Lin and was used to house his workers.

- **Julio's Mexican Restaurants** -- On May 10, 2006, ICE agents in Missouri arrested the owner of two Mexican restaurants in Missouri and Iowa on criminal charges of knowingly hiring illegal aliens. ICE agents also arrested a total of 21 illegal aliens during the execution of search warrants on the restaurants. Investigation revealed that many of the employees had not been asked to complete any paperwork or provide documentation to work at the restaurants.
- **Fischer Homes Inc.** -- On May 9, 2006 ICE agents arrested four supervisors of Fischer Homes Inc. and 76 illegal alien workers at Fischer Homes construction sites in Kentucky. Headquartered in Kentucky, Fischer Homes is a leading builder of homes in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, with annual sales of roughly \$200 million. The four Fischer Homes managers are charged in a criminal complaint with aiding and abetting, harboring illegal aliens for commercial advantage or private financial gain. The maximum possible punishment for the crime charged is up to 10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 or both. On May 11, several contractors and contract companies that provided illegal workers for Fischer Homes construction sites were indicted on criminal charges of harboring illegal aliens in connection with the scheme.
- **Operation Tarmac** -- On May 9, 2006, Karen Sue Rowell and Edward John Pitre, managers of Midwest Airport Services, were sentenced as a result of Operation Tarmac, an ICE critical infrastructure initiative targeting unauthorized employment at U.S. airports. Rowell received nine months federal incarceration and was ordered to pay a fine of \$5,000. Pitre received 15 months of federal incarceration and was ordered to pay of fine of \$1,000. On May 8, 2006, Midwest Airport Services and Service Performance Corporation were fined \$150,000 and \$600,000 respectively. In August 2005, Pitre was convicted for conspiracy to unlawfully harbor and shield illegal aliens from detection. Rowell pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting a false representation of U.S. citizenship.
- **Stucco Design** -- On May 2, 2006, Robert Porcisanu, the owner of an Indiana business that performed stucco-related services at construction sites in seven Midwest states was charged with money laundering, harboring illegal aliens, transporting illegal aliens, and false statements in connection with an illegal employment scheme. Porcisanu faces 40 years in prison. ICE is also seeking the forfeiture of \$1.4 million. His firm was allegedly able to undercut the bids of contractors to perform work at construction sites by taking advantage of cheap labor costs from the use of illegal alien employees.
- **IFCO Systems North America**-- On April 19, 2006, ICE agents arrested seven current and former managers of IFCO Systems North America Inc., pursuant to criminal complaints in Albany, New York, charging them with harboring illegal aliens for financial gain. ICE agents also apprehended 1,187 of the firm's illegal alien employees during search warrants and consent searches executed at more than 40 IFCO locations nationwide. The arrests were the result of a year-long probe of IFCO, which determined that more than half of IFCO's employees during 2005 had invalid or mismatched Social Security numbers. IFCO is the largest pallet services company in the United States, based in Houston, Texas.